(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The text of the draft for the proposed PTA, Rules of Origin, the Operational Certifications Procedures and Wish Lists have been discussed by the two sides. The Empowered Negotiating Team is scheduled to hold the next round of talks in New Delhi during February 23-25, 2006.

FDI in small and medium scale industries

†317. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMALA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals to increase the limit of Foreign Direct Investment in small and medium scale industries is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the percentage of investment limit fixed during the year 2005-06 and whether any proposal to increase the said limit in the ensuing years is under consideration; and

(c) the details of action so far/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the small-scale industries. There is, at present, no separate category industries classified as medium industry. The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis to improve the investment climate in the country, consistent with the objective of accelerated growth of the economy.

Protest against import of gold

318 SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.